

THE PEOPLE OF THE WHITE PRINCE

Chinese was taught in this way, which had no practical⁸⁷⁶ everyday use, children naturally continued to speak and¹⁹¹ think in their own tongue. Now that written Chinese closely follows the spoken language it may in time gradually displace the Min Chia spoken language altogether.

Up to the present this has not occurred, for even well¹⁹¹ educated Min Chia, fluent both in speaking and writing¹⁷⁷ Chinese, continue to converse in Min Chia among themselves. Yet it is certain that the contact with Chinese lasting already for so many centuries has greatly corrupted the Min Chia language. In the Ta Li district the system of counting is^[802] now completely mixed, Min Chia and Chinese numerals being used in turn in the most confusing way. Many Chinese words are also used even when Min Chia equivalents exist, and there is no general rule for their usage. It largely depends which word occurs to the speaker first. As however the Min Chia usually pronounce these loan words in accordance with Min Chia phonology, the consequence of a widespread knowledge of Chinese may well be the appearance of a new dialect composed of Chinese words pronounced in a manner incomprehensible to Chinese of other districts.

Although the political and military fusion of the Min Chia¹⁷⁷ and Chinese is complete, and the influence of a purely Chinese educational system is making an impression on the language, the social organisation of a Min Chia village and the kinship system retain features at variance with Chinese custom. Certain practices of the Min Chia were theoretically contrary to the law under the Manchu Dynasty, if they are not still so, but no attempt to change these customs has been made by the government, nor are such changes in prospect. Among the Chinese, the *tsu* a word which has been not too⁶¹⁸ happily translated as "clan", is an important feature of society and the locality in which a family dwells is of secondary importance. The Min Chia do not have an autochthonous word

THE TOWER OF FIVE GLORIES

NUMERALS

802 The Min Chia numerals are corrupt, Chinese forms being mixed with the Min Chia. From One to Thirty, Min Chia words are used, but from Thirty to Thirty-nine and from Fifty to a Hundred, corrupt Chinese forms are used, with the exceptions of Forty to Forty-nine, and the numbers Fifty, Sixty, Seventy, Eighty and Ninety. Over One Hundred, corrupt Chinese is used except for the numbers One Thousand and Ten Thousand.

One	= Yi	Eleven	= Dser Yi
Two	= Go	Twelve	= Dser lai
Three	= Sa	Thirteen	= Dser sa
Four	= Shi	Fourteen	= Dser shi
Five	= Ngur	Fifteen	= Dser ngur
Six	= Fer	Sixteen	= Dser fer
Seven	= Chi	Seventeen	= Dser Chi
Eight	= Bia	Eighteen	= Dser bia
Nine	= Jiu	Nineteen	= Dser jiu
Ten	= Dser	Twenty	= Lai

Twenty-one	= Lai yi	Thirty-one	= Sa yi
Twenty-two	= Lai lai	Thirty-two	= Sa er
Twenty-three	= Lai sa	Thirty-three	= Sa sa
Twenty-four	= Lai shi	Thirty-four	= Sa ssu
Twenty-five	= Lai Ngur	Thirty-five	= Sa wu
Twenty-six	= Lai fer	Thirty-six	= Sa lu
Twenty-seven	= Lai chi	Thirty-seven	= Sa chi
Twenty-eight	= Lai bia	Thirty-eight	= Sa ba
Twenty-nine	= Lai jiu	Thirty-nine	= Sa jiu
Thirty	= Sa dser		

40 = Shi	50 = Ngur dser
41 = Shi yi	51 = Wu yi
42 = Shi lai	52 = Wu er
43 = Shi sa	53 = Wu sa
44 = Shi shi	54 = Wu ssu
45 = Shi ngur	55 = Wu wu
46 = Shi fer	56 = Wu lu
47 = Shi chi	57 = Wu chi
48 = Shi bia	58 = Wu ba
49 = Shi jiu	59 = Wu jiu

MIN CHIA GRAMMAR

60 = Fer dser

61 = Lu yi

62 = Lu er

63 = Lu sa

64 = Lu ssu

65 = Lu wu

66 = Lu lu

67 = Lu chi

68 = Lu ba

69 = Lu jiu

80 = Bia dser

81 = Ba yi

82 = Ba er

83 = Ba sa

84 = Ba ssu

85 = Ba wu

86 = Ba lu

87 = Ba chi

88 = Ba ba

89 = Ba jiu

70 = Tser dser or Chi ser 802

71 = Chi yi

72 = Chi er

73 = Chi sa

74 = Chi ssu

75 = Chi wu

76 = Chi lu

77 = Chi chi

78 = Chi ba

79 = Chi jiu

90 = Jiu dser

91 = Jiu yi

92 = Jiu er

93 = Jiu sa

94 = Jiu ssu

95 = Jiu wu

96 = Jiu lu

97 = Jiu chi

98 = Jiu ba

99 = Jiu jiu

100 = A Ber

1,000 = A Chi

10,000 = A Ngur

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